

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BY AND BETWEEN
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
AND
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES,
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION
AND
POLLUTION PREVENTION ASSISTANCE DIVISION

THIS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT, made and entered into as of this 16th day of April, 2004, by and between the Environmental Protection Division, Department of Natural Resources, State of Georgia (hereinafter, "EPD"), the Pollution Prevention Assistance Division, Department of Natural Resources, State of Georgia (hereinafter, "P²AD"), the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4 and Headquarters offices, an agency of the United States of America, located at 61 Forsyth Street, Atlanta, GA 30303 and 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20460, respectively (hereinafter, "EPA").

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, P²AD, EPD, and EPA share a common commitment to recognize and reward environmental leadership in the protection of air, water, and land; and

WHEREAS, to that end, P²AD has developed the P²AD Partnership Program, and EPA has created the National Environmental Performance Track program, voluntary incentive and recognition programs that encourage program members to focus on issues important to the environment, to take a creative approach to environmental issues and problems, and to employ partnerships and networking with neighboring communities to achieve environmental goals; and

WHEREAS, EPD, P²AD, and EPA believe we can achieve more by working together than by pursuing our goals independently, coordinating efforts to increase efficiency and effectiveness of our programs as we meet the opportunities that will accompany growth and development; and

WHEREAS, as program membership increases, so do opportunities to encourage organizations to commit to practices that yield results beyond compliance and that ensure the highest level of environmental protection that EPD, P²AD, EPA, program members, and the American public all seek.

NOW THEREFORE, through this Memorandum of Agreement, EPD, P²AD, and EPA commit to creating the best value for our customers; reducing the resource requirements of EPD, P²AD, and EPA staff and the administrative burdens of member organizations; creating the greatest amount of incentives, flexibility, and recognition for program members; and reinforcing and encouraging continuous improvement in environmental performance.

I. General Provisions

While encouraging each program to maintain its own identity and ensure the integrity of each program's application standards, EPD, P²AD, and EPA pledge to:

1. Coordinate the application processes of the P²AD Partnership Program and the National Environmental Performance Track program, so that eligible applicants can apply to both programs simultaneously.
2. Work with facilities to identify ways to streamline and facilitate the application process for both programs.
3. Provide to eligible facilities the assistance necessary to apply and be evaluated expeditiously for acceptance into both programs.
4. Produce marketing tools and coordinate recruiting and recognition events.
5. Communicate to stakeholders and the general public the measurable environmental results achieved by the P²AD Partnership Program and the National Environmental Performance Track program.
6. Identify opportunities to use innovative methods to comply with existing regulations and work cooperatively to implement them.
7. Develop incentives that reduce members' administrative burdens, such as reduced reporting and inspections and expedited permitting, and financial costs, such as reduced hazardous waste fees and toxic release inventory fees, where feasible, in recognition of their high levels of performance.
8. Coordinate the delivery of incentives to achieve the maximum environmental benefits and minimize transaction costs.
9. Identify for program members a high level point of contact in each agency for environmental performance and regulatory issues

II. Future Commitments

EPD, P²AD, and EPA will:

1. Continue to pursue other actions together to enhance our programs and reward program members for their leadership in environmental protection through development of additional ways to coordinate our programs so both program members and the environment benefit.

2. Focus on the roles and the responsibilities of all partners as we work to align our program requirements and develop additional means to deliver recognition, flexibility, and incentives to our environmental leader members.
3. Develop a detailed work plan that further defines how our programs will work together and anticipate a cleaner future for the American, and particularly the Georgian, environment as a result.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, EPD, P²AD, and EPA have executed this Memorandum of Agreement for continued improvement in environmental performance to be given effect as of the date first above written.

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Environmental Protection Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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